

Although there were some additional areas of inquiry I would like to have seen explored, *Home and Away* is a solid football history. Its contribution to our understanding of professional football in the 1920s and early depression years is significant. I urge football fans, sports historians, local history buffs, and cultural historians to read this book.

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Carroll, John M., *Red Grange and the Rise of Modern Football*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999. Pp. ix + 265. Illustrated. Notes, index. \$25.95 cb.

Who is the most remembered college football player of the twentieth century? A strong case could be made for Harold “Red” Grange, whose story is ably constructed by John M. Carroll in *Red Grange and the Rise of Modern Football*. This volume by Carroll, a Lamar University history professor, is his second and the twenty-ninth in the University of Illinois Press “Sport and Society” series. It begins with probably the most dramatic personal performance in college football history: Grange’s scoring four touchdowns in the first 12 minutes against Michigan’s 1924 team that had a 20-game undefeated streak. That game made Grange a national figure, catapulting him into mythological status on a level with Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne, whose backfield of the “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse” had been created by sportswriter Grantland Rice the same day Grange starred against Michigan.

Carroll tells an engaging story that is both readable and scholarly. He chronicles, with well-chosen photos, Grange’s life from his birth in Pennsylvania to his boyhood in Wheaton, Illinois, to his football career at Illinois and with the Chicago Bears, and to his film career in Hollywood and his radio and TV sport announcing. More than this, Carroll places Grange’s career in historical context, explaining why, for example, Grange could make such an athletic impact in the 1920s and financially exploit his success following his achievements at Illinois. We learn of Grange’s strong-willed chief-of-police father, of tough Illinois coach Robert Zuppke, and of sport promoter “Cash and Carry” Pyle (who would bring French tennis star, Suzanne Lenglen to tour America and who would sponsor a Los Angeles to New York City footrace, the Bunion Derby). We acquire an understanding of stadium-

building in the 1920s, of conflicts intensified by Grange between professional and college football, of the place of Grange and professional football before television, and of how Grange played and scored the only touchdown in the NFL’s first playoff game. We also see Grange, like today’s football elites, loving fast and expensive cars, and—when given the opportunity—starring in Hollywood movies such as *One Minute to Play* and *Racing Romeo*. In Hollywood, Grange would meet such luminaries as Joseph P. Kennedy, father of the Kennedy clan, and Adolphe Menjou, the actor. The reader also learns about his late career in the insurance business and his expansive radio and TV football announcing that began in the mid-30s and lasted until the late 60s.

Carroll may be at his best when he discusses the myths that have developed around

Grange's life. For instance, he shows that Grange did not score the first four times he touched the ball against Michigan, the accepted myth, nor was this game in 1924 the first radio broadcast of an Illinois game. Grange, Carroll reveals, was not the first college player or even the first college star to play pro football, as dozens of All-Americans had done that previously. Grange did not "save" pro football, but he did give it great publicity when he went pro in 1925. Going pro before graduation led to the "Grange Rule," but it was not Herschel Walker who broke the rule by being the first player to sign a pro football contract before his college class graduated. That distinction went to Joe Savoldi, a Notre Dame player who signed with the Chicago Bears in 1930. In short, Carroll keeps the "larger than life" features of Grange's life without promulgating myths.

The book's only real shortcoming is its failure to explain Grange's financial status through life. We don't know how Grange financed his University of Illinois expenses or how much he made from commercial interests during his college career. When he turned pro, it is not clear exactly how much he made when he joined the Chicago Bears in 1925 and toured with the Bears at the end of the season. We don't know how much money Grange lost in his Florida real estate deals, or through his part-ownership, with promoter C.C. Pyle, of the New York Yankees professional football team (the 1926 franchise in the new American Football League). It is not clear how Grange lost money during the Depression when he had earned a good part of a million dollars in the second half of the 1920s. It is unfortunate that Grange evidently kept few financial records throughout his career. From football to movies and Red Grange Candy Bars to sports broadcastings, one would like to know more about how a sport celebrity-hero profited or failed financially during a career that spanned a half century from the 1920s through the 1960s.

This volume can stand well with some of the strong biographies of sport figures that have been produced in the recent past, such as Bill Baker's volume on Jesse Owens, Susan Cayleff's book on Babe Didrikson, Allen Guttmann's work on Avery Brundage, Randy Roberts' treatise on Jack Johnson, and Jules Tygiel's classic on Jackie Robinson.

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